

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /072 W

-----109665 250626Z /10

R 250200Z MAY 78

FM AMCONSUL SYDNEY

TO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

INFO CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI

COMSEVENTHFLT

USS OKLAHOMA CITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USDAO CANBERRA

SECSTATE WASHDC 8386

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL PERTH

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SYDNEY 1222

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, AS

SUBJ: COMSEVENTHFLT AND USS OKLAHOMA CITY VISIT

TO SYDNEY, MAY 4-9, 1978

1. SUMMARY: THE VISIT OF COMSEVENTHFLT AND USS OKLAHOMA CITY TO SYDNEY WAS AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS. HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL, MEDIA, CULTURAL AND MILITARY CONTACTS HAD NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF COMMON CONCERN WITH COMSEVENTHFLT AND HIS STAFF. MEDIA COVERAGE WAS FAIRLY EXTENSIVE. BAND PERFORMANCES WERE OF THE HIGHEST PROFESSIONAL QUALITY AND WERE RECEIVED WITH MUCH APPRECIATION. COMSEVENTHFLT AND THE SHIP'S VISIT CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO BOTH THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM OF AMCONGEN SYDNEY AND TO OTHER FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES. THIS WAS THE BEST NAVY VISIT HERE IN RECENT MEMORY. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE VISIT BEGAN EARLY ON THE MORNING OF MAY 4 WHEN I BOARDED THE OKLAHOMA CITY FROM THE PILOT BOAT OUTSIDE SYDNEY HARBOR AND CALLED ON ADMIRAL BALDWIN. SHORTLY AFTERWARD, THE PRESS BOAT LEFT RAN GARDEN ISLAND BASE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF MAJOR SYDNEY DAILIES TO FILM THE ARRIVAL OF THE USS OKLAHOMA CITY OFF SYDNEY HEADS

AT 0800. THE PRESS BOAT FOLLOWED THE SHIP THROUGH SYDNEY HARBOR WHILE TWO NATIONAL TV NETWORKS PUT HELICOPTERS IN THE AIR TO FILM SHIP'S PROGRESS DOWN THE HARBOR. A PRESS TOUR WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF FOUR NEWSPAPERS, AAP, AP, ABC-RADIO AND ALL FOUR NATIONAL NETWORKS FOLLOWED THE SHIP'S ARRIVAL AT 0930. CAPTAIN COLLIGAN WAS INTERVIEWED BY TWO NEWSPAPERS AND TWO TV NETWORKS. PRESS COVERAGE THURSDAY AFTERNOON WAS LIGHT BUT ALL NETWORKS SHOWED CLIPS OF THE SHIP'S ARRIVAL AND CAPTAIN COLLIGAN'S INTERVIEW ON EVENING NEWS SHOWS. THREE SYDNEY RADIO STATIONS COVERED SHIP' ARRIVAL THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND BROADCAST DETAILS ON THE DIAL-A-SAILOR PROGRAM.

3. UPON DOCKING, VICE ADMIRAL BALDWIN WAS CALLED ON BY FOCEA REAR ADMIRAL DAVIDSON AND COMAUSFLT REAR ADMIRAL MCDONALD. VICE ADMIRAL BALDWIN, ACCOMPANIED BY CONSUL GENERAL, NAVATT CAPTAIN SUTHERLIN, AND CAPTAIN BROWN THEN CALLED ON DEPUTY LORD MAYOR MEERS, ACTING GOVERNOR OF NEW SOUTH WALES SIR LAURENCE STREET, AND DEPUTY PREMIER OF NEW SOUTH WALES FERGUSON. LUNCHEON FOLLOWED, HOSTED BY FOCEA AND STAFF, ATTENDED BY VICE ADMIRAL BALDWIN, CAPTAIN BROWN, BPAO BOERNER AND AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE RIDDINGTON, AFTER WHICH VICE ADMIRAL BALDWIN CALLED ON COMAUSFLT IN HMAS STALWART. VICE ADMIRAL BALDWIN HOSTED ONBOARD RECEPTION THAT EVENING FOR APPROXIMATELY UNCLASSIFIED

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140 PERSONS INCLUDING HIGH LEVEL MILITARY, MEDIA, GOVERNMENTAL AND CULTURAL LEADERS.

4. DURING MORNING OF THURSDAY, MAY 4. CAPTAIN COLLIGAN CALLED ON NEW SOUTH WALES CHIEF OF POLICE, COMMISSIONER WOOD, AND PRESIDENT OF MARITIME SERVICES BOARD, MR. WALLACE. CAPTAIN COLLIGAN HOSTED LUNCHEON ATTENDED BY CONSUL GENERAL, DCM SQUIRE, FAIRFAX PUBLISHING HEAD JOHN FAIRFAX, HEAD OF CONSOLIDATED NEWS ORGANIZATION KERRY PACKER, AND A LOCAL BUSINESSMAN, LEX ANDERSON.

5. ON FRIDAY, MAY 5, MEDIA COVERAGE IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS WAS BROAD, MOSTLY WITH LOCAL INTEREST STORIES. A PRESS TOUR AND INTERVIEW WITH VICE ADMIRAL BALDWIN WAS ARRANGED FOR DEFENSE AND POLITICAL WRITERS OF AP, THE PACIFIC DEFENSE REPORTER, THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD AND REUTERS.

6. THE SEVENTH FLEET BAND PLAYED DURING THE NOON HOUR AT MARTIN PLACE TO AN ESTIMATED AUIENCE OF 2500, RECEIVING A VERY GOOD RESPONSE. CHANNEL 9 FILMED A 10- MINUTE SEGMENT ON THE BAND WHICH WAS RELAYED TO 84 NETWORK STATIONS THAT DAY. IN THE EVENING A COMBO

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-----109720 250625Z /14

R 250200Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL SYDNEY
TO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
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BCX/AMCONSUL BRISBANE 428
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FROM THE BAND PLAYED AT A RECEPTION FOR THE SHIP'S
OFFICERS AT THE AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, ATTENDED
BY ABOUT 250 INVITEES, INCLUDING VICE ADMIRAL AND
MRS. BALDWIN, AMBASSADOR AND MRS. ALSTRON, CONSUL GENERAL
AND MRS. DAVIS, CAPTAINS BROWN AND COLLIGAN, NAVATT AND
MRS. SUTHERLIN, BPAO AND MRS. BOERNER AND OTHERS.

7. VIP TOUR OF USS OKLAHOMA CITY AT 1600 ON MAY 5 WAS
HOSTED BY VICE ADMIRAL AND MRS. BALDWIN AND AMBASSADOR
AND MRS. ALSTON. GUESTS INCLUDED AUSTRALIAN CONSUL
GENERAL DESIGNATE TO NEW YORK CITY, SENATOR SIR ROBERT
COTTON AND LADY COTTON; FEDERAL SENATOR KERRY SIBRAA AND
MRS. SIBRAA, AND BUSINESS LEADERS.

8. ON SATURDAY, MAY 6, SEVENTH FLEET BAND PLAYED AT A
SUBURBAN SHOPPING CENTER TO AN ESTIMATED AUDIENCE OF
1500. THE BAND WAS THEREAFTER ENTERTAINED AT LUNCHEON
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BY THE SHOPPING CENTER MANAGEMENT AND AT A NEARBY
RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE CLUB FOR DRINKS.

9. A SPECIAL TOUR WAS ARRANGED FOR AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION MEMBERS SATURDAY MORNING, WITH GENERAL
VISITING HOURS FOR PUBLIC THAT AFTERNOON.

10. ON SUNDAY, MAY 7, TWO SPECIAL TOURS OF THE SHIP
WERE ARRANGED FOR THE STAFF OF THE AMERICAN CONSULATE
GENERAL, FOLLOWED BY A TOUR FOR 50 MEMBERS OF THE
AUSTRALIAN NAVY LEAGUE. GENERAL VISITING HOURS FOR
THE PUBLIC FOLLOWED THAT AFTERNOON.

11. THREE CORAL SEA COMMEMORATION SERVICES WERE HELD
IN SYDNEY CHURCHES SUNDAY, ALL ATTENDED BY SHIP'S
PERSONNEL. THIS INCLUDED ATTENDANCE AT ST. STEPHEN'S
UNITING CHURCH, WHERE THE SERVICE WAS READ BY CHIP CARTER,
PRESIDENT CARTER'S SON WHO WAS THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL
REPRESENTATIVE FOR AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN WEEK.

12. SEVENTH FLEET BAND PLAYED THAT AFTERNOON AT THE
PRESTIGIOUS SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE FOR AN AUDIENCE OF 3500,
AND GAVE A PERFORMANCE THAT EVENING TO AN AUDIENCE OF
600 MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN BRASS AND WOODWIND SOCIETY,
MANY MUSICIANS OF THE SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND OTHER
MUSICIANS AND MUSIC INSTRUCTORS. THIS PERFORMANCE
INCLUDED ENTHUSIASTIC ENCORES DEMANDED BY THE MOSTLY
PROFESSIONAL AUDIENCE. A RECENT LETTER WE RECEIVED
REGARDING THIS PERFORMANCE SAYS: QUOTE: QUITE FRANKLY,
WORDS FAIL ME IN MY ATTEMPTS TO DESCRIBE THE SUPERB
MUSICIANSHIP SHOWN BY YOUR MEN. TO ALL IN THE ORCHESTRA
A SINCERE AND HEARTFELT THANK YOU FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE
ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EVENING. I KNOW THAT YOUR ORCHESTRA
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CAN BRING ONLY CREDIT TO THEMSELVES, THE OKLAHOMA CITY
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. END QUOTE.

13. ON MONDAY MORNING, MAY 8, THE SHIP'S PERSONNEL
UNDERTOOK A COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROJECT AT THE LITTLE
SISTERS OF THE POOR MISSION WHICH RECEIVED A BRIEF MEDIA
NOTE. TWO PERSONNEL OF THE SHIP WERE INTERVIEWED
ON SYDNEY RADIO STATIONS FOR LIVE BROADCAST. SEVENTH
FLEET BAND FLEW TO BRISBANE FOR PERFORMANCES THERE FOR
THE CARTERS' VISIT FOR AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN WEEK.

14. VICE ADMIRAL AND MRS. BALDWIN AND CAPTAIN BROWN
PARTICIPATED IN THE CORAL SEA REMEMBRANCE SERVICE AT
THE CENOTAPH AND THE CORAL SEA LUNCHEON WHICH FOLLOWED.

15. THE DEPARTURE OF THE USS OKLAHOMA CITY ON TUESDAY, MAY 9, RECEIVED BRIEF PRESS PLAY. THE MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE SHIP'S VISIT WAS EXTENSIVE, PERHAPS BECAUSE IT COINCIDED WITH AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN WEEK AND VISITS OF CHIP AND CARON CARTER AND VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE IN CANBERRA. A COMPLETE REVIEW OF COVERAGE, INCLUDING PRINT CLIPPINGS, WAS FURNISHED TO SEVENTH FLEET PAO LT. CDR. TURMAN BEFORE THE SHIP'S DEPARTURE.

16. WE HAVE RECEIVED A LARGE NUMBER OF CONGRATULATORY LETTERS AND PHONE CALLS. THE VISIT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS AND ADDED MEASURABLY TO THE LARGE STORE OF GOODWILL WHICH AUSTRALIANS IN SYDNEY HAVE FOR THE UNITED STATES NAVY. MEDIA COVERAGE WAS MORE EXTENSIVE THAN WE HAD EXPECTED AND THE BAND'S PERFORMANCES WERE INVARIABLY PROFESSIONAL AND OUTSTANDING. THERE IS SOME DISCUSSION OF ASKING THE BAND OUT AGAIN IN DECEMBER OR JANUARY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SYDNEY FESTIVAL.

17. THE LENGTH OF THE STAY PERMITTED MEMBERS OF THE SHIP'S COMPANY TO ESTABLISH PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH
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SYDNEYSIDERS. THE IMPACT THEY MADE WAS OVERWHELMINGLY FAVORABLE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO AN EARLY RETURN BY THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE SEVENTH FLEET.
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